

Solidarity

Numismagram Newsletter #43 (VI/2020)



Once again, recent events have made the time since our last update—only a few weeks ago—seem as though it has been years. In addition to the continuing uneasiness and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, America is facing an older, more deep-

rooted illness that has gone largely untreated during her history. For this newsletter, our plan through most of the past few weeks had been to touch upon some current events and intricately weave them with a selection of items in this month's upload. For example, there's the haphazard and unstructured reopening efforts taking place in various states across the nation—some clearly with little to no data to warrant such cavalier approaches. One can only wonder how this will play out, but it's safe to say that Darwin himself would certainly be intrigued...



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Then there's the recent (as in just this past weekend) launching of the SpaceX manned rocket—a *joint mission with NASA*—which saw two astronauts safely shuttled into orbit and dock at the International Space Station. This recalls the time in 1971 when the Soviet Union launched a module that would begin the process of the first orbiting space station...



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But these events—even *something as gripping as a once-in-a-century pandemic*—seemed to take a backseat to the civil unrest currently playing out across the nation. The all-too-familiar image of an unarmed black man being slowly murdered by those sworn to

serve and protect has caused the illness of racism to fester to the surface, this time seemingly inescapable of further inaction or a blind eye. To be a student of history is to understand the ways in which different groups of people have historically acted and been treated. It is an unquestionable truth that minority communities have always been marginalized. While this certainly isn't unique to 21st century America, now more than ever it demands acknowledgement, treatment, and a path to recovery just as any mortal disease would.

There is no one item in this month's upload that touches directly upon this systemic injustice, but many of the pieces, when viewed together, present a powerful and moving message. On the left side of the image below, we have violence and confrontation seemingly right out of the news from the past week—a woman is spearing a hydra, but her main focus is the fascist Mussolini, above whom are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, and below whom is a figure that seems representative of every member of police standing sentry in riot gear. In the center of the image, we have the media and our technologically connected world—the understanding and harnessing of radio waves along with the bright light of journalism act in concert to pry open our eyes to each and every act of injustice lest they continue to be avoided. Lastly, on the right side of the image, we have the hopeful ideal—a more tranquil and just future, rooted in science, an appreciation of the arts, and an understanding and tolerance for religions, among a host of other differences...



(https://shoutout.wix.com/so/29N9mUhQr/c?w=6cfjEgObNmMGQNuy3RoiamznTT_uHndZPNQvVL9xiel.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnVtaXNtYW)

Until we return with a ‘skulls and skeletons’ mini later this month, please stay safe and, wherever possible, lend a supporting voice to the equality that is so obviously needed. Let us relegate these images of violence and confrontation to a more enjoyable medium such as medals and not the human experience itself.




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